



Journal photo by Chris Jackson

Shepherd's Travis Sluggar prepares to throw to first after fielding a ground ball at third base during the Rams' game against Alderson-Broaddus Sunday at Fairfax Field.

Rams sweep D&E

Shepherd is victorious on Senior Day

By BEN GUELL
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — After stumbling last week against two key West Virginia Conference opponents, the Shepherd Rams upended Davis and Elkins in a doubleheader on Sunday, winning the first game 3-1 and the nightcap 4-2.

After a pair of losses last week, Shepherd coach Leslie Lopez said her team "did a lot of hitting, and we talked about our goals and what needs to be done to obtain those goals."

With standout pitching and a few impressive defensive plays, the Rams

overpowered the Senators on Senior Day to improve to 28-11 overall and 17-3 in WVC play.

Even with emotions running on high, Lopez knew her team could handle the pressure.

"At first I thought it would be a little difficult for the seniors, but they did a good job," Lopez said.

In Game 1, Shepherd's Nichole Pitcock went the distance to earn the win and improve to 20-4.

Amber Dudek went 2 for 3 to lead the Rams, and Samantha Crabtree went 1 for 2 to lead the Senators.

Pitcock breezed through the Davis and Elkins' starting lineup, and the Shepherd offense put the Rams on the board in the first inning.

After Courtney Williams and Jess Mason walked, Dudek doubled to center field to score both runners for a 2-0 lead.

In the second and third, Pitcock and Davis and Elkins pitcher Alanna Jones took over.

Pitcock powered through three straight batters to keep her team ahead.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL
D&E 1, 2

SENIORS 17-3
SHEPHERD 3, 4

RAMS 28-11

Shepherd drops pair to A-B

By SPENSER LEATHERMAN
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Alderson-Broaddus Battlers took advantage of Shepherd Ram miscues in a 5-4 and 10-2 sweep Sunday at Fairfax Field.

The Rams started the first game ahead 4-1 going into the top of the fourth, but a rally by the Battlers secured a 5-4 win. The Battlers also rallied late in the nightcap to

post a 10-2 win. Shepherd started with a two-run lead in the bottom of the first.

Aaron Scoville

scored on a single to center field by Morgan Lautz. Nash Hutter reached base on an Alderson-Broaddus error, scoring Nathan Minnich, who

COLLEGE BASEBALL

A-B 5, 10

BATTLERS 10-20

SHEPHERD 4, 2

RAMS 12-17

reached safely on a fielder's choice.

The Battlers cut the Rams' lead to one in the top of the third.

A Mitch Roy single to center scored Justin Combs, who singled to start the inning and was advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by Travis Hurley.

The Rams responded in the bottom half of the inning with two runs on back-to-back doubles.

Aaron Lee, who singled to start the inning, scored on a two-bagger by Lautz. Minnich drove in Lautz on a double to right field, giving Shepherd a 4-1 lead.

The Battlers gained the lead in the top of the fourth with a four-run rally.

See SHEPHERD C2



Journal photo by Chris Jackson

Shepherd's Krista Tippett fires a shot past Tiffin's goalie during their game Sunday at Ram Stadium.

Shepherd wins finale

By BEN GIBSON
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN — The Shepherd Rams lacrosse team finished off its season with a 24-15 win over the Tiffin Dragons to earn a winning record — 8-7 — after only winning two games last season.

The Rams were able to end the season on a high note, as well as send the first group of seniors off in winning fashion.

"These three seniors are so instrumental to this program," Shepherd coach Tammy Butler said.

"They helped get all this started, and all three were captains this year and provided leadership as well as great players."

The seniors on this year's team are the first group of players to

COLLEGE LACROSSE

TIFFIN 15

DRAGONS 7-8

SHEPHERD 24

RAMS 8-7

come from the program's beginning as a club team, and through last year's losing streaks, to help make a winning season a reality.

"It's been an honor to be a part of the team and been great to see the way the team has grown," senior Karen Sutphin said.

But for the Rams to clinch a winning season, they needed to earn a final victory on their home turf against the Dragons.

See FINALE C6

See RAMS C6

Rams FROM PAGE C1

Then Jones fanned two batters in order to keep her team within striking distance.

In the fifth inning, the Senators laid down back-to-back sacrifice bunts, putting runners on second and third base. Amanda Serafini brought in one run with a hit to right field, trimming the Rams' lead to 2-1.

While Davis and Elkins struggled to put more runs on the board, Shepherd added another run in the sixth inning.

Megan Holmes doubled to right field, and Cammie Orlando singled to center to score Holmes for a 3-1 advantage.

Pitcock and the Rams' defense held the Senators at bay the rest of the way en route to a 3-1 Game 1 victory.

In Game 2, Shepherd took

"We do not worry about records being made. We focus on the future business. Without working hard now, there could be no future."

— Leslie Lopez
Shepherd coach

an early lead.

In the second inning, the Rams scored two runs to back pitcher Brooke Stambaugh.

In the fourth inning, Davis and Elkins tied the score at 2-2.

Shepherd scored twice to regain the lead and finish the sweep of the Senators.

With the victory, Stambaugh improved to 8-7. Shepherd has proved to be

a powerhouse at home, posting a 15-3 record on its own diamond. The Rams have four remaining games in Shepherdstown.

"We do not worry about records being made," Lopez said. "We focus on the future business. Without working hard now, there could be no future."

The Senators fell to 17-16, 10-6.



Journal photo by Chris Jackson

Shepherd's Courtney Williams laughs with Chelsea Oals after scoring a run during the Rams' game against Davis & Elkins Sunday in Shepherdstown.

Finale FROM PAGE C1

Shepherd jumped out to a 2-0 lead with goals by the freshman duo of Shannon Carta and Christina Ferrara in the first three minutes of play. The Tiffin defense stood firm until the 18:20 mark when junior Cara Parks notched a goal for the Rams, giving them a 3-0 lead.

The Dragons answered back with a pair of goals by Taylor DeMaio and Elyse Braun to cut Shepherd's lead to one with just under 13 minutes left in the first half.

The two teams alternated on the next pair of goals, first with Carta scoring her second goal of the day, followed by a Tiffin goal by Melissa Cooper to make it a 4-3 game.

The Rams built their lead by going on a quick three-goal run, starting with sophomore Krista Tippett and ending with a pair of goals by Ferrara and Carta to make it 7-3. Alexandria Quast answered back with a goal, but Tippett scored a pair of goals to give the Rams a 9-4 lead with under three minutes left.

Tiffin's Kelley Miller snuck

in two goals before the half-time whistle to cut Shepherd's lead to 9-6. While the Rams held the halftime advantage, the seniors and some of the younger players knew they needed to finish strong.

"We knew it was the last game and that we needed to come out big; we knew we needed to execute and finish," Carta said. "And we did."

The Rams opened up the second half with four goals in the first five minutes to take a 13-6 lead. Kaitlyn Drake began the second-half scoring by going high against Tiffin goalie Madeline Kane. Three more goals from Ferrara, Carta and Tippett followed. Quast answered back with a goal, but Ferrara and Carta tallied a goal each to make it 15-7.

Tiffin gained some momentum after goals by Cooper, Quast and DeMaio to trim the deficit to five, but the Rams countered with a scoring run of their own.

Carta, Drake and Ferrara scored the first three goals of the run, followed by an un-

assisted goal by Taylor Smith. Three Tippett goals and a score by Drake made it a 23-10 game. Quast interrupted the scoring run with a goal for the Dragons, but Shepherd senior Carly Jones fired in a goal to give the Rams a 24-11 lead. Braun and Quast scored four goals between them to end the game.

While the team celebrated their winning season, they also looked back to see how far they had come.

"It's great to see the improvement, from having the talent and not being able to show it last year, to having a more talented and better showing this year," senior Lindsay Russell said.

With the Rams' first winning season in hand, Butler was thankful for the hard work and hard times the team had went through, as well as the contributions made by her seniors.

"They'll be missed, and I love them a whole lot, just glad we could celebrate this today," she said.

Shepherd FROM PAGE C1

A Combs sacrifice fly scored Nick Canterbury, who reached on a bunt single. Hurley singled to center field, scoring Daniel Ray Bryan, who reached safely on a fielder's choice. Roy drove in Hurley and Justin Anderson with a double to center, giving the Battlers a 5-4 lead.

The Rams were unable to score a run for the rest of the game and left seven runners stranded.

The Battlers continued to pick apart the Shepherd defense and take advantage of the offensive woes of the Rams in a 10-2 win in the second game.

After a pair of scoreless innings, Alderson-Broaddus broke the ice with a run in the top of the third.

Bryan doubled to right-center field and advanced to third on a Shepherd error, scoring on a Hurley groundout.

The Battler lead increased to three runs as Jeff Conley scored on a sacrifice fly by Bobby McLaughlin and Mike Hackett coming in to score on an error, putting Derek Patsy on base in the top of the fourth.

Conley pitched a no-hitter going into the bottom half of

the inning, but the no-hitter and shutout were both broken.

Lautz doubled to right-center, breaking the no-hitter, and Minnich smashed a two-run homer to right, stopping the shutout and cutting the lead to a single run.

The Rams were unable to chip away at the lead any further before the Battlers rallied to score seven runs, six of them coming off of three Shepherd errors in the sixth inning.

Roy scored on a single to right by Hackett, who advanced to second off a Rams error in the fifth inning.

Patsy opened the sixth inning rally with a solo home run to left field. After reaching base on a Shepherd error, Bryan stole second and advanced to third on a wild pitch on ball four of a Roy walk before scoring on a Conley double to right. A Hackett single brought around Roy and Conley. Shepherd's second error of the sixth inning scored Hackett and put Canterbury on base. Another defensive miscue by Shepherd scored McLaughlin, giving the Battlers a 10-2 lead that the Rams couldn't overcome.

The Battlers improve to 10-20 with a conference record of 9-8, while the Rams fall to 12-17 with a conference record of 8-14. Alderson-Broaddus coach Bill Barr felt like both games could have been anyone's to win.

"Shepherd plays tough baseball," he said.

"We were fortunate to have our defense and pitching keep them off the scoreboard, while also putting in runs on timely hitting. These two games could have gone either way."

Rams coach Wayne Riser felt that they were in the game, but a loss of focus was revealed.

"We're young and are expected to be competitive the entire season, but lost our 'want-to,'" he said.

"Our players either want to compete or not, and whatever choice we made showed."

"There's no hiding in baseball," Riser added.

"We don't have a clock or flags to stop a play from happening. Our lack of competitive desire led to the errors and offensive woes, and a 'want-to' compete mentality could have avoided most of them."



Journal photo by Chris Jackson

Shepherd's Nathan Minnich makes contact for a base hit during the Rams' game against Alderson-Broaddus Sunday at Fairfax Field.

Doubleheader split moves Rams to third in WVIAC

VIENNA -- Shepherd and home-based Ohio Valley split one-run verdicts in a WVIAC baseball doubleheader played last Wednesday.

The Rams held off a late-game series of innings where the Fighting Scots kept scoring single runs to post a 6-5 win in the opener. Ohio Valley used the three-run homer by Joseph Hallinan in the first inning of the nightcap as the impetus it needed to finally secure a 4-3 win . . . and a split of the two games.

Shepherd was 8-12 in the conference and had moved into third place in its seven-team North Division. Ohio Valley was 6-10 in the conference and stationed in fifth place in the seven-team South Division.

In the opener, the Rams were able to post five runs in the first inning -- scoring all their runs after two outs with nobody on base.

Nathan Minnich walked and Nash Hutter walked to give the Rams two base runners. Morgan Lautz singled to drive in Minnich and give Shepherd a 1-0 lead. Jake Cook singled to load the bases. When Derek Gunsell drew a walk, it forced in Hutter with the inning's second run.

With the bases still loaded, Brandon Coffey came through with a clutch, three-run double and the Rams had scored five times after there were two outs and nobody on base.

Ohio Valley answered immediately against Shepherd starter Paul Hvozdovic, scoring two runs on three hits.

Shepherd moved ahead, 6-2, in the second when Aaron Lee

doubled and Hutter had a one-out RBI single.

Hvozdovic left after just two innings with soft-tossing submariner Jonathan Painter replacing him. Michael Shepherd greeted Painter with a solo homer that cut the Rams' lead to 6-3.

Sean Wiles replaced Painter to begin the Ohio Valley fourth. With one out, Shawn Brand singled. Brand moved to second on Wiles' error. When Joshua Saavedra tripled, it was only a 6-4 Shepherd lead.

In the Ohio Valley fifth, two singles and two ground outs produced another run off Wiles. After five innings, Shepherd's lead had shrunk to 6-5.

Wiles was able to strike out the side in the Ohio Valley sixth.

When the Rams couldn't score again in the seventh, they had been blanked for five straight innings.

Ohio Valley had two outs in the seventh, Tyler Welch had a single. And Shayne Miller reached safely on shortstop Aaron Scoville's error. Kyle Fleak struck out against Wiles to end the game.

Shepherd had only seven hits.

Wiles went four innings, yielded five hits and walked only one. Both runs he gave up were earned.

In the nightcap, Justin Byrd was Shepherd's starting pitcher. Byrd was rocked for Hallihan's three-run homer in the first.

Shepherd trailed by those three runs until the third when Gunsell had a single with one out and Scoville followed by reaching on a walk. With runners at first and

second, Lee delivered an RBI single to give the Rams a run. But Minnich skied out to center and Hutter struck out.

Byrd was gone after just two innings. Left-hander Trevor McClain replaced him to begin the Ohio Valley third.

In the Shepherd fifth, Lee had a sacrifice fly to bring the Rams to within a run of the lead at 3-2. Meanwhile, McClain was blanking the Fighting Scots through the sixth.

Still trailing by a run going to the top of the seventh, the Rams got even at 3-3 when Scoville delivered a two-out single that plated the game-tying run.

McClain had been unscored on in his four innings. But in the Ohio Valley seventh Saavedra had a lead-off single and then stole second. Saavedra moved over to third on a wild pitch charged to McClain.

Hugo Olivares struck out, and Shepherd coach Wayne Riser elected to intentionally walk both Shepherd and Hallinan to load the bases and set up a force play at the plate.

Tyler Wharton foiled the strategy when he singled in Saavedra with the game-winning run.

Shepherd was limited to just six hits (all singles) by the combined effort of four Ohio Valley pitchers.

Lee and Gunsell each had two hits for the Rams.

Shepherd had moved to third place in its division with the split. It had a three-game weekend series at home at Fairfax Field with Alderson-Broadbuss being menaced by the weather forecast.

Rams win low-scoring DH

By SPENSER LEATHERMAN
FOR THE JOURNAL

SHEPHERDSTOWN – The Shepherd University Ram offense was slow to start but turned it up late in a pair of one-run wins to sweep the Glenville State Pioneers in a doubleheader Wednesday.

In Game 1, the Rams scored a run in the bottom of the sixth inning to win 1-0. Shepherd scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth inning to win by the score of 2-1 in the nightcap.

Shepherd and Glenville were unable to take advantage of opportunities with runners in scoring position as both sides were held scoreless in the first five innings of the opening game.

The Rams broke Ally Southall's shutout in the bottom of the sixth inning by scoring the only run of the game, thanks to a pair of errors by Glenville.

Kris Durham reached on an error and was removed for pinch runner Courtni Williams, who moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Jess Mason and a double by Amber Dudek. Williams scored as Nichole Pitcock's grounder was booted at second base.

With the 1-0 win, Pitcock picked up her Shepherd softball record-setting 21st win of the season. She allowed four hits and struck out nine.

The Rams faced adversity early but came back with clutch-hitting in a 2-1 victory in the nightcap of the doubleheader.

The Pioneers scored the first run of the

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

GLENVILLE 0-1

PIONEERS 14-20

SHEPHERD 1-2

RAMS 30-11

game on a Kayleigh Huck groundout that scored Brittany Handley, who singled to start the first inning.

Shepherd didn't score until the fifth inning, but the Rams' two runs proved just enough for the West Virginia Conference's second-place team to gain the sweep.

Bianca Biondillo doubled to open the inning and went to third as Megan Holmes reached on an error. Cammie Orlandi's single scored Biondillo. After a double play, Chelsea Oals' infield single broke the tie, as pinch runner Stephanie Hudlow scored.

The Rams improved to 30-11 and 19-3 in the WVC by playing great defense.

"We haven't hit the ball well as of late," Rams coach Leslie Lopez said. "As a team, we are very fortunate to have our defense be able to stop rallies from the other team when we need to."

"We would like to give our pitchers more run support," Orlandi added. "Our pitching and defense do a great job of preventing runs from coming in and playing with the run support we

See RAMS D2



Journal photo by Ron Aguir

Shepherd's Courtni Williams scores the only run of the first game as the ball bounces away from Glenville catcher Lacey Williams as the Rams swept a doubleheader. Both players are graduates of Musselman High School.

Rams FROM PAGE D1

have, but a little more at times wouldn't hurt."

The Rams also took advantage of scoring opportunities late in each game.

"Different players come up with a big moment at different points in a particular game," Lopez said. "As a team, we can count on the one player whose time it is to shine to step up and contribute in a big way."

"It's all about taking advantage of opportunities," Orlandi added. "Any one of us could be set up with the opportunity to change a game when the bat is in our hands. We were very successful as a team in coming up with the big runs when we need them the most."

While Shepherd took advantage of scoring

chances, Glenville left 14 runners on base, eight of them in the first game as they fell to 14-20 with a conference record of 10-8.

"We left way too many runners on base," Pioneers coach Tim Spencer said. "The lack of timely hits to score runs caused most of the runners being stranded, but we also were up against a Shepherd team that pitches and defends well."

Glenville committed three errors, two of them leading to scoring opportunities for the Rams.

"Errors late in both games hurt us," Spencer said. "We made a mistake late in both games that led to their runs. Shepherd did a great job of taking advantage of our miscues, as few as there were."

FSU enters WVC's as No. 4 seed

(http://timeswv.com/fairmont_state_sports/x1250115023/FSU-enters-WVC-s-as-No-4-seed)

By Duane Cochran

For the Times West Virginian (<http://timeswv.com>)

FAIRMONT — Fairmont State University's softball team opens play in the annual West Virginia Conference Tournament Thursday at the Vienna Softball Complex as the No. 4 seed in the 12-team tourney.

The Falcons finished the regular season 19-21 overall and 10-8 in league play. Fairmont finished with a power rating of 107.65.

FSU earned an opening-round bye and will face the winner of No. 5 Glenville State (15-21, 11-9) and No. 12 Ohio Valley (7-28, 4-14) at noon Thursday.

Fairmont and Glenville split their regular-season series. The Falcons won the first game 2-0 and dropped the nightcap 6-1 back on April 9. FSU and Ohio Valley did not meet during the regular season. Their scheduled doubleheader on April 13 was postponed due to inclement weather and was not able to be made up.

The Falcons head into the annual WVC Tournament having won six of their last eight games. FSU's only setbacks since April 17 came in a doubleheader loss to top-seeded West Virginia Wesleyan on the road on April 20. Wesleyan, which is ranked 19th in the nation in NCAA Division II, finished the regular season 42-5 overall and 21-1 in league play.

* Shepherd University (30-13, 19-5) is the second seed for the tournament, while West Virginia State (28-12, 13-5) is seeded third.

Fairmont State is led offensively by a trio of .300-plus hitters. Leading the way for the Falcons is junior shortstop Abbey Wilson who is batting a team-high .325. Wilson also leads FSU in home runs (11), triples (3), RBI (29), runs scored (25) and stolen bases (8-of-9). She's second on the team in doubles with seven.

Junior center fielder Chelsea Simon is second on the team in batting with a .319 average. Simon has scored 23 runs, leads the Falcons in doubles with nine, has two triples, a pair of homers and 12 RBI.

Junior first baseman Brittany Tallhamer is batting .303 with five doubles, two homers, one triple and 25 RBI.

Sophomore Chelsea Cobb, last season's WVC Freshman of the Year, is FSU's pitching leader. Cobb has a 10-8 record this spring. She's worked a team-high 108.1 innings and has 102 strikeouts, while allowing just 20 walks. Cobb has a 2.52 ERA and opponents are batting just .278 against her.

True freshman Nikki Nuzum is Fairmont's second pitcher. The former East Fairmont High School standout is 7-7 this season with a 3.75 ERA. She's worked 89.2 innings and has 54 strikeouts.